

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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SS-15 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /086 W

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R 021125Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7504

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 9262

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, PK

SUBJECT: SOVIET PROTEST ON LANDSAT RECEIVER

1. ACTING FOREIGN SECRETARY SHAHNAWAZ IN A MEETING SEPTEMBER 2 WITH THE DCM CALLED HIS ATTENTION TO A SOVIET PROTEST AGAINST THE TEMPORARY STATIONING OF A LANDSAT RECEIVER IN PAKISTAN. SHAHNAWAZ READ FROM A NOTE RECEIVED FROM THE SOVIETS IN WHICH THEY STATED THAT THERE WAS NO NECESSITY FOR THE US TO SET UP A STATION IN THE NORTH OF PAKISTAN FOR PURPOSES OF INVENTORYING CROPS, SINCE THE US HAD ADEQUATE FACILITIES INSTALLED ELSEWHERE TO CARRY OUT THIS ACTIVITY. THE NOTE OF PROTEST WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE LANDSAT RECEIVER WAS THEREFORE CLEARLY INTENDED FOR PURPOSES OF SURVEILLANCE AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION AND WAS INCONSISTENT WITH USSR/PAKISTAN RELATIONS.

2. SHAHNAWAZ SAID HE WAS CALLING THIS TO OUR ATTENTION SO THAT WE WOULD HAVE CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF THE KIND OF PRESSURE THAT THE SOVIETS PLACED ON PAKISTAN AT EVERY AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITY. THE DCM ASKED SHAHNAWAZ IF THE GOP INTENDED TO RESPOND TO THE SOVIET PROTEST. SHAHNAWAZ
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SAID THAT THEY WOULD NOT REPLY, BECAUSE IT WAS A MATTER OF

PAKISTAN SOVEREIGNTY WHETHER IT CHOOSES TO PERMIT ANY
COUNTRY TO INSTALL A FACILITY WITHIN PAKISTAN.

3. IN RESPONSE TO DCM'S QUERY AS TO HOW THE SOVIETS
HAD LEARNED OF THE AGREEMENT TO STATION A LANDSAT
RECEIVER IN PAKISTAN (SINCE THERE HAD BEEN NO PUBLIC
ANNOUNCEMENT), SHAHNAWAZ WAS AT FIRST SOMEWHAT EVASIVE AND
THEN IMPLIED THAT GOP HAD ITSELF INFORMED THE SOVIETS,
PRESUMABLY TO FORESTALL THE VERY PROTEST THAT WAS
SUBSEQUENTLY REGISTERED.
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